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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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FLIESLER MEYER, LLP FOUR EMBARCADERO CENTER SUITE 400 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111			BATURAY, ALICIA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2155	

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/785,687

Applicant(s)

STEWART ET AL.

Examiner

Alicia Baturay

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06252001, 07162001, 08132001, 05062002, 02022005, 05202005
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), which was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3 February 2006 has been entered.
2. Claims 1 and 11 were amended.
3. Claim 19 was cancelled.
4. Claim 23 was added.
5. Claims 1-18 and 20-23 are pending in this Office Action.

Response to Amendment

6. Applicant's amendments and arguments with respect to claims 1-18 and 20-22 and new claim 23 filed on 3 February 2006 have been fully considered but they are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1, 11 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso et al. (U.S. 6,161,149) and further in view of Balabanovic (U.S. 6,624,826).

Achacoso teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a system for communicating information among members of a discussion group using a central agent. The central agent receives and stores messages, causing discussions to be maintained (see Abstract).

9. With respect to claim 1, Achacoso teaches a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to

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participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

10. Claims 11 and 23 do not teach or define any new limitations above claim 1 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.
11. Claims 2-10 and 12-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso in view of Balabanovic and further in view of Ozzie et al. (U.S. 6,640,241).
12. With respect to claim 2, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the routing criteria being specified by the message protocol.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism where routing criteria for a message are specified by the message protocol (Ozzie, col. 16, lines 36-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the routing criteria being specified by the message protocol. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

13. With respect to claim 3, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 2, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

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However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the routing criteria being specified in a message overhead.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism where the routing criteria is specified in a message overhead (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the routing criteria being specified in a message overhead. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

14. With respect to claim 4, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 3, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach a message routing mechanism where a repository of participant and conversation information can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism where the collaboration hub includes a repository of participant and conversation information which can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable a message routing mechanism where a repository of participant and conversation information can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

15. With respect to claim 5, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 4, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach a message router.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism further comprising a message router for routing a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable a message router. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

16. With respect to claim 6, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 4, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a message filter.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism further comprising a message filter for filtering a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository (Ozzie, col. 16, lines 44-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a message filter. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

17. With respect to claim 7, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a messaging bridge.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism further comprising a messaging bridge for transferring messages from a first collaboration space to a second collaboration space (Ozzie, col. 20, lines 38-43).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a messaging bridge. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

18. With respect to claim 8, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation

(Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a messaging gateway.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism further comprising a messaging gateway for transferring messages from a collaboration space to a business messaging system (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 38-58).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a messaging gateway. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

19. With respect to claim 9, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 8, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches the message routing mechanism where the business messaging system is any of an XML, CSML, Ariba NET or equivalent messaging system (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific

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business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

20. With respect to claim 10, Achacoso teaches a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform

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resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a messaging proxy.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism further comprising a messaging proxy for transferring messages to a messaging device (Ozzie, col. 21, lines 35-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a messaging proxy. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

21. With respect to claim 21, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each

of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a message router and filter.

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However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism including a message router that routes a message (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31) and a message filter that filters a message (Ozzie, col. 16, lines 44-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a message router and filter. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

22. Claims 12-18, 20 and 22 do not teach or define any new limitations above claims 2-10 and 21 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

Response to Arguments

23. Applicant's arguments filed 3 February 2006 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive for the reasons set forth below.

24. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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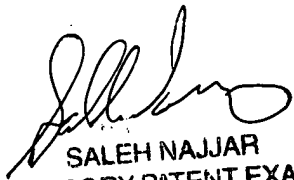
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia Baturay whose telephone number is (571) 272-3981. The examiner can normally be reached at 7:30am - 5pm, Monday - Thursday, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alicia Baturay
March 27, 2006


SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER